Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /082 W
----------101163 211453Z /20
R 210818Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7018
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 0651

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG, AO, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH INITIATIVE ON MOBUTO-NETO RECONCILIATION

REF: (A) 77 ABIDJAN 10382, (B) STATE 014402, (C) ABIDJAN 497

1. THOUGH WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE FRENCH INITIATIVE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL B, IT DOES NOT SOUND IMPROBABLE, AND COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH HOUPHOUET DURING GISCARD'S JUST-CONCLUDED FIVE-DAY VIST TO IVORY COAST. JOINT COMMUNIQUE STATES GISCARD AND HOUPHOUET DISCUSSED AFRICAN PROBLEMS, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY ONLY THE HORN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. HOWEVER, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT, DURING THEIR SEVERAL TETE-A-TETES, GISCARD AND HOUPHOUET ALSO DISCUSSED ANGOLA AND RE-LATED SUBJECTS, INCLUDING ANY ONGOING OR IMMINENT FRENCH INITIATIVES IN THE AREA.

2. MOREOVER, HOUPHOUET WOULD BE THOROUGHLY INCLINED TO SUPPORT AN INITIATIVE -- PARTICULARLY A FRENCH INITIATIVE -- AIMED AT RECONCILING MOBUTO AND NETO. AS REPORTED REFTEL (A) HOUPHOUET HIMSELF ATTEMPTED LAST SUMMER TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN MOBUTO
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AND NETO IN IVORY COAST. ACCORDING TO HOUPHOUET, BOTH AGREED TO MEET BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT NETO BACK DOWN UNDER SOVIET PRESSURE.
STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONCILIATION, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ABIDJA00651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-1167
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780137/aaaabfhf.tel
Line Count: 59
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 840f25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ABIDJAN 10382, 78 STATE 14402, 78 ABIDJAN 497
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3735614
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH INITIATIVE ON MOBUTO-NETO RECONCILIATION
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, CG, AO, FR, IV, (GISCARD D\'ESTAING, VALERY), (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/840f25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014